

Amendment
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/708,189

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

--The nodes of the exemplary embodiment preferably transmit and receive control and user information messages with a Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) waveform, using a Carrier Sense Multiple Access with collision avoidance (CSMA/CA). Using Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum (DSSS) signaling, multiple messages can be sent over the same time-frequency channel and they will be separated at the receiver by the code which identifies the specific user channel. To take full advantage of the code division, the available RF spectrum can be divided into multiple frequency channels, such that multiple frequency channels exist for every CDMA code. Fig. 4 illustrates the advantages of this feature. At any point in time, each user (node) employs a particular CDMA code for communicating RTS, CTS, MSG and ACK messages. However, the burst RTS and CTS messages can be transmitted on a different frequency than the information message (MSG), as suggested by Fig. 4. By equipping each node with two receivers, each node can simultaneously "listen for" and receive RTS/CTS message traffic on one frequency channel while receiving or transmitting an information message on a separate frequency channel. By defining communication channels using both CDMA and FDMA and by employing plural receivers, any number of channel/receiver allocation schemes can realize highly efficient use of RF resources among a group of nodes, such as the schemes described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/705,588 entitled "Methods and Apparatus for Coordinating Channel Access to Shared Parallel Data Channels," filed November 3, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,404,756, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.--